

April 11, 1983

Legislature, it isn't often on this floor I will rise to oppose my good friend, Senator Harry Chronister, but I hope all of you read the papers over the weekend and noticed what the Mayor of the City of West Point said about this kind of a move. He said, I don't know how anyone figures that the City of West Point can run one of these packing plants any better than anyone else. He said, the statistics are there that show that they are not paying on the present basis and we just don't want to be in that position. I think that same thing is true of the City of Schuyler. I don't see how in the world they can figure that if the Land O'Lakes can't make that plant pay under the present situation, neither can the City of Schuyler, nor can anyone else. The argument was used on the floor the other day that this was needed for the livestock industry. Let's face it, the supply of livestock for the present packing plants is so low right now that many of the plants are actually closing down as they are in Grand Island at least one day a week because the supply of finished cattle isn't there and it is partially, of course, as many of us know because of the weather. But let's be realistic about this and let's not get our cities involved in things they have no business in. I, for that reason, am opposed to the Chronister motion.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson. Could we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel).

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I am going to rise in support of Senator Chronister's motion to have this bill placed before the Legislature. I have always been...I was interested during the last debate at the sentiment of the body in not even entertaining this bill. It strikes me that it is premature to judge a bill without having the bill introduced, without having the bill read, without having the bill heard in committee, and accordingly comments made about how inappropriate it would be for the City of Schuyler to take over Land O'Lakes or the City of West Point to take over Iowa Beef Processors, or what have you, are premature remarks that simply do not address what is before us, and the simple question before us is whether or not the bill that Senator Chronister is talking about can be introduced and considered, and that is all. Now after the bill is considered, it may well be that the idea does not seem satisfactory to the members of the committee that considered the bill, in which case the bill is killed. Or it may well be that the bill will be advanced to the floor and the Legislature as a whole would decide to kill